KNOBLOCK, KEITH DRAWER 21a SCULPTORS-K

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Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Keith Knoblock

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71. 2009 085. 02800

LINCOLN STATUE HISTORY

I was requested by Dr. George Stimeling to serve as the "education member" of the City of Bloomington Bicentennial Committee. Mayor Walter Bittner had desired a committee to represent the business, education, social, and various cultural aspects of the City in the planning for the 200th National Birthday on July 4, 1976. It was my privilege to serve on this committee of seven interested citizens (refer to Bi-Centennial Program Book).

After the initial meeting of the City Bi-Centennial Committee on the evening of Jan. 23, 1975, in the [illegible] Chairman Mr. [illegible] I wrote a letter the next day to my immediate administrative [illegible] in education which was Mr. Robert Bryant, Principal, Bloomington High School. The letter contained among other information as follows:

> "Mr. Fraker asked for any expression of personal project ideas. Thus, something that could be viewedin future years. I mentioned that (Mr.) A. Lincoln had a very major association with early Bloomington and yet there is no statue of him in this city! I placed on record the idea that Local History Seminar and/or American History Section (students) will sponsor a drive for collections for a "Statue of Abraham Lincoln" similar to (Mr.) Asahel Gridley in the Courthouse. It was further discussed the possibility of said statue being in the vestibule of [illegible] County Service building and/or City Building. I shall pursue the matter."

My first serious thoughts of Mr. Lincoln occurred nearly forty years ago. The image of "Mr. Lincoln in Bloomington" developed in my mind, perhaps, in the year of 1937 or 1938. My parents, Mr. & Mrs. Harry E. Fairfield, came often to Bloomington. My Father, who was Editor and Publisher of The Sibley Journal, encouraged my reading of newspapers and history.

Thus as I stood at a 5 and 10¢ Store counter (the old Woolworth on North Main?) with a young boy's interest in a new comb," I was surprised beyond words to see Mr. Lincoln standing right next to me!" The memory shall always remain crystal clear - "he stood on my left side."

"I was tall in the 7th grade but Mr. Lincoln towered over me and he did wear a noticeably tall black hat. I was speechless both in surprise and respectful awe! My desire was to say, 'Hello, Mr. Lincoln and welcome back to Illinois.' " Common sense told me that it was not really Mr. Lincoln. For me, at least, history had come alive and Mr. Lincoln was here in Bloomington for mysterious-boyish-moment-of-time!

I did not say anything to my parents during the drive back thru eastern McLean County to Sibley (3 miles into Ford County). I wondered much over this event. At this age history and literature had become my favorite subjects in school. Mr. D. F. Kauffman, 7th & 8th Grades Teacher as well as Grade School Principal did very much to guide this interest.

That night I re-read the Daily Pantagraph and found that "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" was in production at the Masonic Temple on north East street. Mr. Raymond Massey was Mr. Lincoln to me! I just knew at that mysterious moment of the day before that even Mr. Lincoln had need to buy a new comb too!

L. S. HISTORY, cont'd.

Let us review some associations of Mr. Lincoln with Bloomington. Other than his life in early New Salem and later in Springfield, perhaps, he was closer in both professional and social association with Bloomington than any other city in the State.

Did you know that Mr. Lincoln:

1. was an attorney with a (rented) law office (upstairs) at the corner of Main and Front streets (present Central Loan Co.);
2. was a close friend of David Davis, Leonard Swett, Jesse Fell and other Bloomingtonians;
3. had an option to buy two lots on East Jefferson street;
4. travelled the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Illinois out of Bloomington in various directions many times;
5. gave an important speech here per the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1856 (called the "Lost Speech" by many); and
6. served as an attorney for interested parents to establish (a tax rate for) Bloomington High School in 1857.

What steps had been taken in preliminary organization for the Lincoln Statue in Bloomington? Such very important early steps may be listed chronologically as follows:

Jan. 24, 1975	V. L. Fairfield, BHS American History Instructor suggests "Statue of Abraham Lincoln" in writing to BHS Principal Robert D. Bryant. Will organize history students and "shall pursue the matter."
Feb. 6, 1975	Mr. F. contacted Mr. Herb Curtis, Chairman, Art Dept. BHS for information on local sculptures.
Feb. 13, 1975	Mr. F. called a local scupture, as recommended, per cost estimate, general information and feasibility. "I was much encouraged!" (twice in early years some attempts had been made to raise at times $60,000 and $100,000 for a Lincoln Statue - both attmpts failed).
inserted here > MAR-APR-MAY, 1975	
April, 1976 (many)	Talked to sculpture many times (telephone) in the evenings per materials such as metal, fiberglass, wood, stone, plastic, etc. "More encouraged and metal seems clearly as best overall material!"
June 30, 1976	Talked again per "maquette" and very important issues of (1) capability; (2) facilities; and (3) contract. "It is understood these are informative discussion with no sculpture officially selected as yet."
July 1, 1976	Sculptor at Mr. F.'s home (1603 East Oaklnad). Original estimates of $7-$8,000 or $10,000 for a three-quarter size hollow cooper statue. Full size of Mr. Lincoln (6'5" in boots, etc.) would be "12,500 and/or possibly $13,500 per final completion, inflation factors, etc. "Still encouraged but fully realize work needed. Will recommend this man as

July 13, 1976	The organizational meeting of the "Lincoln Statue Committee" now that there is monies-in-hand. First meeting in room 101 at BHS of all members.
July 16 & 17, 1976	Telephone conversations with "sculptor advisor." Mr. F. suugests that he meet with the full Committee on July 19, 1976. It is understood that other local sculptors (from McLean County) will also be interviewed per their interest by the Committee. In a return telephone call July 19th was not satisfactory to meet; however, a meeting date of of July 27 was approved. In the meantime the "sculptor advisor" indicated he "would view the new Law Center Building per possible Statue location."
July 24, 1976	The "sculptor advisor" called Mr. F. and indicated that "I cannot accept the Lincoln Statue work." Mr. F. "thanked him for his advice to date" and the discussion was terminated.
July 26, 1976	Mr. Bam Peterson (McLean County Administrator) & Mr. F. toured the new Law & Justice Center looking at the entrance area for possible Statue location. Mr. Gene Asbury, M. C. Property Committee, will give us various recommendations on this matter for the L. S. Committee to study.
July 27, 1976	Lincoln Statue Committee meeting and Mr. F. asks for consideration and selection of a "Sculptor Selection Sub-Committee." Approved. Sub-C. of Bolin, Masters, Stuart, Torporzer, & Fairfield.

Would need & appreciate the Committee Secretary, Bolin & Masters, to add "[illegible] dates of meeting with various sculptors. Also date & name of the final sculptor selection."

A short review of the Sculptor Contract may be in order here too!

24
KODAK TRI X PAN FILM

[illegible]

LINCOLN STATUE
[illegible]

MAYOR WALTER [illegible] - FORMER MAYOR
DR. CHARLES BOLEN - DEAN, COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS ILL. STATE UNIV.
PRINCIPAL ROBT. BRYANT - BLOOMINGTON HIGH SCH.
MRS. MARTHA DILLMAN - HOUSEWIFE IN BLOOMINGTON
V. L. 'BUDD' FAIRFIELD - HISTORIAN
[illegible] CRAKER - ATTORNEY
MRS. ELIZABETH MASTERS - MEMBER OF McLEAN CO. HIST. SOC.
MRS. BARBARA STEWART - HOUSEWIFE IN NORMAL
A. W. TOMPKINS SR. - RETIRED VICE PRES. OF STATE FARM INS. CO. ALSO MEMBER OF McLEAN COUNTY BOARD
THOMAS R. TORPORZER
↓
DIRECTOR OF MUSEUMS ILL. STATE UNIV.

[illegible] V. L. FAIRFIELD
[illegible]rganizer, Lincoln Statue

[illegible]

Abraham Lincoln is back in McLean County. He stands, posed and serene, in the lobby of the county's new Law and Justice Center in Bloomington, in the heart of the area where he practiced law in the 8th Judicial Court, delivered his "Lost Speech" and enjoyed the companionship of several figures notable in McLean County history.

Lincoln, in this instance, is a six foot, four and three-quarter inch bronze statue by ISU sculptor Keith Knoblock. The statue will be dedicated in ceremonies at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 28, 1977.

The statue is the result of a two-year project initiated by Bloomington historian V. L. Fairfield as a bicentennial project with his students at Bloomington High School. Donations came from all sectors of the community--individual private citizens and students, social organizations, businesses, civic groups and the governments of both Normal and Bloomington.

The statue is the first full-sized representation of Lincoln in the county.

Historian Fairfield said he conceived of the idea for a statue as a result of a childhood experience in which he found himself standing next to actor Raymond Massey, who was in full Lincoln

Knoblock, right, and friend.

[illegible] for [illegible] [illegible] of "[illegible]."

"Common sense [illegible] not really Mr. Lincoln," [illegible] said, "But for me, [illegible] had come alive, and [illegible] in Bloomington again, [illegible] mysterious boyish [illegible]."

That memory, [illegible] interest in history [illegible] father, editor and [illegible] Sibley Journal, [illegible] suggest the statue to the [illegible] Bicentennial Committee, of which he was a member.

After considering [illegible] a selection committee [illegible] awarded the commission to Knoblock, Ohio-born and educated [illegible] faculty member since 1967. [illegible] work has been shown in one-[illegible] and juried exhibitions throughout the country. Various pieces are included in the collections of the [illegible] Congress, the Illinois State [illegible] Springfield and several [illegible].

Knoblock relied on pictures of Lincoln and on his own [illegible] to create the sculpture, [illegible] Lincoln in his thirties, [illegible] which he was most closely [illegible] with McLean County. [illegible] practicing law and owning property [illegible]

See LINCOLN, back page.

To: McLean County Almanac

Do you know that "Abraham Lincoln stands again in Bloomington?" WHO STARTED THE STATUE PROJECT (in January, 1975)?

He grew up at Sibley in nearby Ford County. As a boy he saw Raymond Massey (actor) portray Mr. Lincoln in Bloomington in 1937 (and always remembered it). His Father edited The Sibley Journal.

The Total Fund collected reached $16,455 (of which $15,000 for the Statue, $500 for statue-base, $500 for booklet, etc. and $335.52 "surplus" was given to the McLean County Historical Society). The Statue Dedication Day was Sunday, August 28, 1977.

BUDD V. L. FAIRFIELD HISTORY INSTRUCTOR AT BLOOMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ORIGINATED THE LINCOLN STATUE PROJECT. He has both the B.S. and M.S. degrees in history from Illinois State University. He has taken a year of study toward a Doctoral degree.

The Statue Project was coordinated with the 1976 Bi-Centennial Year. Mr. Fairfield organized 100 B.H.S. "Student Lincoln Volunteers" to help. A Lincoln Citizen Committee (of ten people) provided invaluable advice. (Budd Fairfield has said: "Local History should be remembered and prideful! I am very proud to help Mr. Lincoln stand again in Bloomington as he did in the 1840's and 1850's.")

APPROXIMATE 100 WORDS. THE PARTS WITHIN PARENTHESIS MAY BE CUT TO SHORTEN.

MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE IN THE "LINCOLN STATUE DEDICATION BOOKLET" FROM THE McLEAN COUNTY HISTORY SOCIETY, 201 E. GROVE, BLOOMINGTON, ILL. 61701. (TEL. (309) 827-0428).

MRS. BARBARA DUNBAR DIRECTOR

"LINCOLN ASSOC." CLOSED, Dec. 16, 1977
and $335.57 [illegible] given to
McLEAN CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY
(Mrs. Robert [illegible], [illegible]).

To: LINCOLN STATUE SELECTION Comm.

UPDATED [illegible]

[illegible] in the [illegible] [illegible] in "[illegible]" [illegible] [illegible] County [illegible]

+150 / +66 > 1,[illegible]46 from [illegible], etc.
1,125 from [illegible], etc.
1,[illegible] from [illegible], etc.
[illegible]750 from [illegible]

2,000 — [illegible]
100 from [illegible]
8,013 — [illegible]
15,279 — [illegible] OF 1977."

$15,750 [illegible]

[illegible] 1977 = $16,750

MR. LINCOLN [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Last year [illegible]

The [illegible]

[illegible] words [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] and

STATUTE REVISION

will be [illegible] part of the New

INDIAN COUNTY LAW & JUSTICE CODE

[illegible] proud to [illegible] and also of the United Bands [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] 73

[illegible] many students and the many citizens [illegible] invaluable [illegible] Statute Committee (W. Bitner, C. Eaton, [illegible] M. Dillman, B. Fairfield, G. [illegible] [illegible] tors, B. Stuart, A. W. Tompkins and T. Tapiquen).

YOU ARE [illegible] "DISTRICTS OF 1970"

[illegible] FAIRFIELD

[illegible]

Notes of the Meeting of the Lincoln Statue Selection Committee held at the home of V. L. Fairfield on [illegible], [illegible] 1977.

Members present:
Mr. Robert Bryant
Mrs. Martha Dillman
Mr. V. L. Fairfield
Mr. Guy Fraker
Mrs. Barbara Stuart
Mr. Thomas R. Toperzer

Members absent:
Mr. [illegible]
Dr. [illegible] (authorized [illegible] to act as his proxy)
Mr. A. W. [illegible]

The matter of special bindings for [illegible] given to the following organizati[illegible] report of her conversation with the [illegible] that those for library use would be [illegible] a leather binding, requiring special [illegible] for library use be so bound. This [illegible] unanimous vote of those present.

Barbara Stuart then moved that a le[illegible] gift copies for Mr. Fairfield and for Mr. [illegible] Tom Toperzer and was carried by unanimous vote of those present.

Hard back, cloth binding:
McLean County Bar Ass'n Library
(presently in Judge [illegible] office, but eventually to be [illegible] in the Law & Justice Center Bldg.)
Milner Library - ISU
Ill. Wesleyan Library
Normal Public Library
Bloomington Public Library
Illinois State Library
Illinois State Historical Library
McLean County Historical Library

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

It was moved by Guy Fraker that final [illegible] to Keith Knoblock, in the amount of $4,500, be paid after January 1, 19[illegible]. [illegible] by Barbara Stuart [illegible] by unanimous vote of those present.

Disposition of the small 1/4 scale clay model [illegible] by Knoblock for initial [illegible] of the Committee, was discussed. [illegible] display in the trophy case of [illegible] Knoblock about it and he said [illegible] that according to his contract, [illegible] could be made later if desired. [illegible] to make such a mold of this scale [illegible] have it cast. The motion was [illegible] Before making the mold, however, [illegible] having it photographed, and that such a [illegible] final completed statue, at Bloomington [illegible] laminated form be displayed along with the two photographs. Guy Fraker moved that this be done and Barbara Stuart [illegible] the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

The dedication plaque was the next [illegible] of business. [illegible] by Tom Toperzer, that there [illegible] wooden rail behind the statue [illegible] Barbara Stuart moved the plaque [illegible] work to be done by best means possible. [illegible] carried by unanimous vote.

The following wording of the plaque [illegible] seconded by Guy Fraker and carried by [illegible] vote:

A. LINCOLN - [illegible]
McLean County, [illegible]

Erected through public subscription [illegible] historian, in [illegible]

Keith [illegible], Sculptor

[illegible]

Guy Fraker moved that any such [illegible] to the McLean County Historical [illegible] carried by unanimous vote.

Copies of the book covering the [illegible] and will be mailed to those who [illegible]

The evening ended with a social [illegible] gingerbread and coffee.

Life Size Statue: 6' 4 3/4"

Sculptor: Keith Knoblock

Weight: 850 lbs.

Forever Young

THIS STATUE of Abraham Lincoln as a young lawyer stands in the McLean Justice Center in Bloomington, Ill. — *Wayne Bridges*

McLean Justice Center

Life Size -- 6' 4 3/4"

[Not heroic]

Sculptor: Keith Knobloch

Weight: 850 lbs

July 27, 1981

McLean Justice Center
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

Dear Sirs:

A statue of Abraham Lincoln entitled "Forever Young" appeared in the Tri-State Trader on February 14, 1981. It depicts Lincoln as a young lawyer and stands in the McLean Justice Center (Xerox copy enclosed).

Our institution trys to maintain an up-to-date file on all heroic bronze statues of Lincoln along with any and all pieces of Lincoln sculpture.

I would appreciate some information on this particular statue of Lincoln. Is it a heroic bronze statue? Who is the sculptor? When was it erected or dedicated? Can you give me the height and weight of the statue? Do you have any biographical information on the statue, the sculptor, any literature, and a black and white print of it that you could send me, if available?

Any assistance that you can give me on this piece of sculpture of Lincoln for our files would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Mary Jane Hubler
Assistant to Dr. Neely

MJH/vpg

Enclosure - Xerox copy enclosed of Statue of Abraham Lincoln entitled "Forever Young" which appeared in the Tri-State Trader".

July 27, 1961

McLean Justice Center
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

Dear Mrs.

A statue of Abraham Lincoln entitled "Forever Young" appeared in the Tri-State Trader on February 11, 1961, as Captain Lincoln as a young lawyer and stands in the McLean Justice Center (Xerox copy enclosed).

Our institution tries to maintain an up-to-date file of all bronze statues of Lincoln along with any and all pieces of Lincoln sculpture.

I would appreciate some information on this particular statue of Lincoln. Is it a heroic bronze statue? Who is the sculptor? When was it erected or dedicated? Can you give me the height and weight of the statue? Do you have any biographical information on the statue, the sculptor, any literature, and a black and white print of it that you could send me, if available?

Any assistance that you can give me on this piece of sculpture of Lincoln for our files would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Mary Jane Hubler
Assistant to Dr. Neely

MJH/vpg
Enclosure - Xerox copy
Enclosed of Statue of
Abraham Lincoln entitled
"Forever Young" which appeared
in the Tri-State Trader.

Mrs. Mary Jane Hubler 8-6-81

L. A. Warren, Lincoln Libr. & Museum

A short note of reply as your letter of 7-27-81 was referred on to me by the County Clerk.

I have gathered some materials & xerox copies per the statue project to honor Mr. Lincoln. Hope you are not too bored by all the reading.

over

I suggest you send for the small booklet as it contains many excellent pictures of the statue, also much information.

We call it "A. Lincoln, circuit lawyer of McLean County." Note: he had no beard when in Bloomington. It is life size (6'4 3/4" etc.) & thus not heroic. Keith Knoblock was the sculptor. Approximate weight of 850 lbs. Dedicated Aug 28, 1977. I am most honored in your interest in the Fairfield-Knoblock statue of Mr. Lincoln. Thank you kindly

Budd V. L. Fairfield

A. LINCOLN

THE CIRCUIT LAWYER 1839-1859 McLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

NOW AVAILABLE

A new Commemorative book published to celebrate the dedication of the first full-sized bronze statue of Lincoln in McLean County, Illinois.

A handsome publication of 40 pages, it contains

- --detailed photos of the statue
- --23 pictures depicting the entire process from clay to bronze
- --a history of Lincoln in McLean County, covering his 20 years as a circuit lawyer
- --a brief history of how the project was accomplished: A Bicentennial Idea
- --a list of donors

The book is available ONLY at the McLean County Historical Society museum, one block east of the Law and Justice Center in Bloomington. The statue may be viewed in the lobby of the Law and Justice Center.

The Society will also accept mail orders. Please make checks payable to: Lincoln Statue Fund. Send to:

McLean County Historical Society
201 East Grove
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

Please clip this form and send with your donation to

McLean County Historical Society
201 East Grove
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

I would like to order ___ copies of "A. Lincoln: The Circuit Lawyer 1839-1859, McLean County, Illinois." I wish to donate $3.00 for each copy. Enclosed is a total of $_____. Make checks payable to: Lincoln Statue Fund. Note: Institutions may be billed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

actual program

DEDICATION CEREMONY

A. LINCOLN: SCULPTURE
THE CIRCUIT LAWYER, 1839-1859, McLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

McLean County Law & Justice Center
Bloomington, Illinois

Sunday, August 28, 1977, 2 p.m.

Introduction of County Board Members and Sculpture Committee

Music - "Battle Hymn of the Republic," Members of Singing Y'ers,
James Ingold, voice
David Baker, drum
Allan Gill, guitar

Resume of the Project - "I Remember," V.L. "Budd" Fairfield

Selected Readings - from Lincoln letters and speeches by Kirk Hard,
co-creator of and title-role actor
in "Your Obedient Servant: A. Lincoln"
produced by Great American People Show
at New Salem State Park

Introduction of Sculptor, Unveiling and Presentation to the County -
Keith Knoblock, artist

Acceptance on Behalf of the County - James Pemberton, Chairman of
McLean County Board

Master of Ceremonies - Dean Charles Bolen,
College of Fine Arts, Illinois State University

August 11, 1981

V. L. Fairfield
History Department
Bloomington High School
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

Dear Mr. Fairfield:

Thank you so much for the information you sent on the life size statue of Abraham Lincoln entitled "Forever Young" sculptured by Keith Knoblock and erected in Bloomington, Illinois.

We shall add all of this data to our files pertaining to this particular statue of Lincoln.

Sincerely yours,

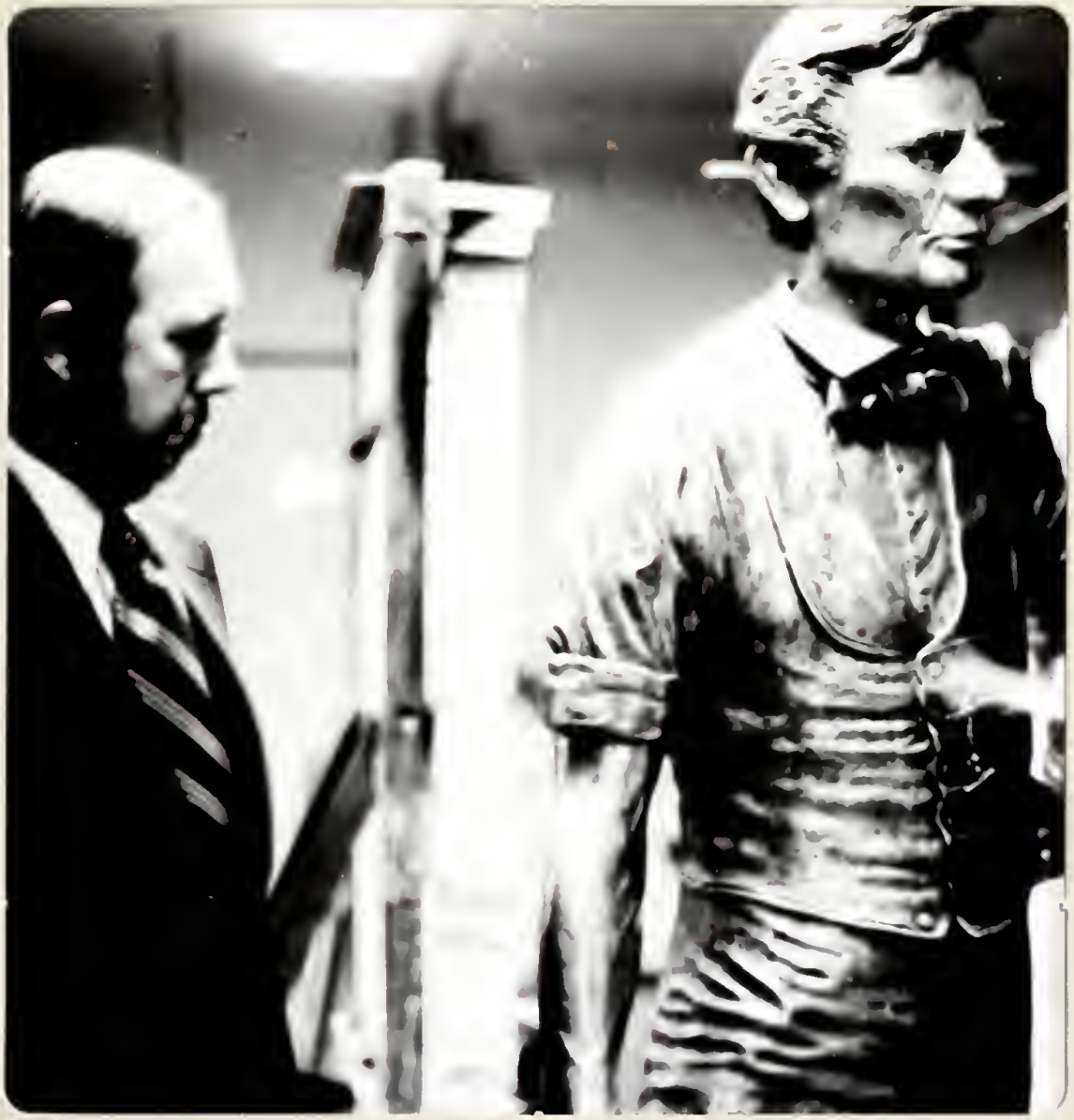
Mrs. Mary Jane Hubler
Assistant to Dr. Neely

MJH/jaf

V. L. FAIRFIELD AND
A. LINCOLN STATUE.

DEDICATED AT (NEW)
McLEAN COUNTY LAW AND
JUSTICE CENTER,
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS,
ON AUG. 28, 1977.

STATUE FORMALLY NAMED:
"A. LINCOLN, CIRCUIT LAWYER,
1839 - 1859.



History Dept., BHS
9-14-81

Mrs. Mary Jane Hubler
L. A. Warren Lincoln Library & Museum
1300 S. Clinton
Ft. Wayne, Indiana46801

Dear Mrs. Hubler:

Kindly accept the enclosed black & white picture of the Lincoln statue you had asked about earlier. The dedication ceremony was on Aug. 28, 1977 and the formal name is "A. Lincoln, Circuit Lawyer, 1839-1859." He did rent a law office here in Bloomington and served in the 'th Judicial Circuit of Illinois. He was a close friend of such Bloomington lawyers as David Davis, Jesse Fell, and Leonard Swett. His property (at Bloomington) included two lots on east Jefferson street near the present Junior High School. Some thought he did seriously consider at one time of building a home in the city at that address.
Mrs. Barbara Dunbar of the McLean Historical Society has much further information available. This past summer the Society has moved forward in its plan to restore and renovate the Lincoln Law office in Bloomington.

We are quite proud of the Lincoln statue and especially the "grass roots" effort and monies which went into it. It was originally a Bi-Centennial project started in the year of 1976.

Sincerely yours,
V. L. Fairfield
V. L. Fairfield
Asst Hist. Instructor

V. L. ~~& Mrs.~~ Fairfield
23968 1300 E. North Road
Bloomington (Bentown)
Illinois 61704

4-24-2001

THE LINCOLN MUSEUM
— FT. WAYNE, IN 46802

DEAR SIR:

PER YOUR INTEREST ABOUT A. LINCOLN, I HAVE ENCLOSED A RECENT BLOOMINGTON, IL. PANTGRAPH CLIPPING + OTHER STATUE INFO.

WITHOUT THE LINCOLN STATUE IDEA + MONEY RAISING PROJECT (JAN '75 - AUG '77), THERE COULD BE A STATUE.

A. LINCOLN - "A GREAT AMERICAN FROM THE HILLS + PLAINS OF KENTUCKY, INDIANA AND ILLINOIS."

SINCERELY,

V L "Bard" Fairfield

County Comments

McLean County

August 8, 1997

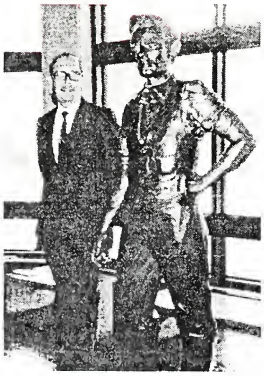
Gary C. Riss, Chairman
McLean County Board

Barbara Churchill, Editor
Volume 1997, No. 16

V L. FAIRFIELD
0029

Abraham Lincoln Statue Turns 20!!!!!

August 28, 1997



A. Lincoln 6'4½" 180 lbs.
Actual Weight 900 lbs.
& "Budd" Fairfield

The Bloomington High School History Students Lincoln Statue Project was originally suggested by McLean County's own employee, V. L. "Budd" Fairfield, Bailiff, (then an American History Instructor at BHS) in the Spring of 1975 as a Bi-Centennial Project. In both 1875 and 1890, attempts were made to raise funds for a Lincoln Statue in McLean County, but on both occasions, the projected costs were astronomical at $50,000 and $100,000, respectively. The actual cost of the finished sculpture that adorns our lobby was $16,515. The sculptor, Keith Knoblock, a member of Illinois State University's Faculty, completed the hollow copper/bronze mix statue in approximately eight months and the dedication was held on August 28, 1977.

Funding was officially begun in August, 1975 with a total of $45. Breakdown of final donations included: Schools - $1,850; Clubs - $1,300; Small Business - $1,500; Large Business - $750; Government - $2,100; Bi-Centennial Pageant - $3,750; Individual Contributions from the "Patriots of 1976" - $5,600. Total donations were $16,850. The $335 surplus from donations was contributed to the Mclean County Historical Society.

On April 8, 1975, the McLean County Board approved a resolution for the Lincoln statue to be placed in the lobby of the newly-built McLean County Law and Justice Center. The Selection Committee included: Mayor Walter Bittner, Dr. Charles Bolen, Principal Robert Bryant of BHS, Martha Dillman, V.L. "Budd" Fairfield, Guy Fraker, Elizabeth Masters, Barbara Stuart, A. W. Tompkins, Sr., and Thomas R. Torporzer.

After twenty years of standing guard in the Mclean County Law and Justice Center's original lobby, Abraham Lincoln's statue will be moved back about 7 feet and be located in front of a column in our new lobby sometime in August of 1997.

A big, 20th Anniversary Thank You to all the people who served on the Committee, the students who began the project and all those who donated of their time, talents and treasures to enhance the beauty of our lobby for generations to come with this impressive statue of Abraham Lincoln.

Editor's Note: **Very special gratitude goes to "Budd" Fairfield, who continued work on the Lincoln Statue Project and did not falter in his efforts, but dedicated his time and talents to the memory of his daughter, Debbie, who tragically lost her life at the age of 20 in a pedestrian/vehicle accident.**

To: McLean County Almanac

Do you know that "Abraham Lincoln stands again in Bloomington?" WHO STARTED THE STATUE PROJECT (in January, 1975)?

He grew up at Sibley in nearby Ford County. As a boy he saw Raymond Massey (actor) portray Mr. Lincoln in Bloomington in 1938 (and always remembered it). His Father edited The Sibley Journal.

The Total Fund collected reached $16,455 (of which $15,000 for the Statue, $500 for statue-base, $500 for booklet, etc. and $335.52 "surplus" was given to the McLean County Historical Society). The Statue Dedication Day was Sunday, August 28, 1977.

BUDD V. L. FAIRFIELD HISTORY INSTRUCTOR AT BLOOMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ORIGINATED THE LINCOLN STATUE PROJECT. He has both the B.S. and M.S. degrees in history from Illinois State University. He has taken a year of study toward a Doctoral degree.

The Statue Project was coordinated with the 1976 Bi-Centennial Year. Mr. Fairfield organized 100 B.H.S. "Student Lincoln Volunteers" to help. A Lincoln Citizen Committee (of ten people) provided invaluable advice. (Budd Fairfield has said: "Local History should be remembered and prideful! I am very proud to help Mr. Lincoln stand again in Bloomington as he did in the 1840's and 1850's.")

APPROXIMATE 100 WORDS. THE PARTS WITHIN PARENTHESIS MAY BE CUT TO SHORTEN.

MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE IN THE LINCOLN STATUE DEDICATION BOOKLET FROM THE McLEAN COUNTY HISTORY SOCIETY, 201 E. GROVE, BLOOMINGTON, ILL. 61701. (TEL. (309) 827-0428).

LINCOLN STATUE FUND "FACTS"

JAN. 24, 1975 — LINCOLN STATUE PROJECT OFFICIALLY PLACED ON RECORD WITH B.H.S. PRINCIPAL ROBT. BRYANT BY V.H. FAIRFIELD, HISTORY INSTRUCTOR.

APR. 8, 1975 — McLEAN COUNTY BOARD APPROVES LINCOLN STATUE IN LOBBY OF (NEW) LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER.

AUGUST, '75 — FIRST CONTRIBUTORS ARE:
- HAL RISS
- JON DAVID HINRICHS
- V.H. FAIRFIELD

SEPT., '75 — BHS HISTORY STUDENTS LINCOLN STATUE PROJECT OFFICIALLY STARTED. APPROX. 30 STUDENTS VOLUNTEER

NOV., '75 — INVITATION + INFORMATION LETTER SENT TO ALL PRINCIPALS + SCHOOLS IN McLEAN COUNTY.

DEC., '75 — MRS. F. CENTENNIAL 5th GRADE SELLS $257. OF MAJOR'S HALL BRICK FUND TOTALS $1144. BY END OF YEAR!

BUDD V. L. FAIRFIELD
Organizer, Lincoln Statue

News Hot Line 436-8371

Illinois State University
Division of Public Affairs

Illinois State Report

Volume 12 Number 5

Lincoln to return to McLean County in LIFE SIZE statue

Abraham Lincoln is back in McLean County. He stands, posed and serene, in the lobby of the county's new Law and Justice Center in Bloomington, in the heart of the area where he practiced law in the 8th Judicial Court, delivered his "Lost Speech" and enjoyed the companionship of several figures notable in McLean County history.

Lincoln, in this instance, is a six foot, four and three-quarter inch bronze statue by ISU sculptor Keith Knoblock. The statue will be dedicated in ceremonies at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 28, 1977.

The statue is the result of a two-year project initiated by Bloomington historian V. L. Fairfield as a bicentennial project with his students at Bloomington High School. Donations came from all sectors of the community--individual private citizens and students, social organizations, businesses, civic groups and the governments of both Normal and Bloomington.

The statue is the first full-sized representation of Lincoln in the county.

Historian Fairfield said he conceived of the idea for a statue as a result of a childhood experience in which he found himself standing next to actor Raymond Massey, who was in full Lincoln IN 1938 costume for a role in a traveling production of "Abe Lincoln in Illinois."

Knoblock, right, and friend.

"Common sense told me that it was not really Mr. Lincoln," Fairfield said, "But for me, at least, history had come alive, and Lincoln was here in Bloomington again, if only for a mysterious boyish moment of time."

That memory, coupled with an interest in history fostered by his father, editor and publisher of the Sibley Journal, prompted Fairfield to suggest the statue to the Bloomington Bicentennial Committee, of which he was a member.

After considering several sculptors, a selection committee last September awarded the commission to Knobloch, Ohio-born and educated and an ISU faculty member since 1967. Knoblock's work has been shown in one-person and juried exhibitions throughout the country. Various pieces are included in the collections of the Library of Congress, the Illinois State Museum in Springfield and several universities.

Knoblock relied on pictures of Lincoln and on his own imagination to create the sculpture, intended to depict Lincoln in his thirties, the period during which he was most closely associated with McLean County. Besides practicing law and owning property in

See LINCOLN, back page.

[illegible] of the [illegible]
secretary of SCERR; Herman J. Simon, from administration counselor to assistant director of administration.

Graduate students to conduct seminar

Graduate students Joseph Muhs and Jeff Vance will present a chemistry department seminar on polymers at 1 p.m. Friday in Felmley Hall 436.

Meeting Monday on student employment

The personnel office has authorized release time for Civil Service employes who supervise student workers to attend a meeting Monday on procedures and policies in student employment. The meeting, at 9:30 a.m. in the Old Main Room of the Union, is to be conducted by the financial aid office.

Delmar reads paper at Wyoming conference

P. Jay Delmar, English, read a paper, "Textual and Terminal Comments: Motivational Tools for Composition Students," at the Wyoming Conference on Freshman and Sophomore English last month in Laramie.

LINCOLN . . . from front page.

Bloomington, Lincoln was instrumental in establishing a tax rate for Bloomington High School and he drafted documents for the establishment of Illinois State (Normal) University.

Knoblock did most of the preliminary work on the sculpture in the art foundry of the Center for the Visual Arts. He did the final welding in the Chicago studio of a teaching colleague, Barry Tinsley. A commemorative booklet describing the process will be available for a nominal fee at the dedication.

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Editor ..... Michael J. Matthews

will be paid by the Yugoslavian Basketball Federation, which extended the invitation.

CALENDAR

Thursday

Theatre, "Cabaret," 8 pm, Westhoff Theatre
Art Exhibit, "The American Farm," CVA Gallery 1 (thru 8/31)
Exhibit, "Marmalade Haiti-Haitian Children's Art," Ewing Museum of Nations

Friday

Theatre, "Cabaret," 8 pm, Westhoff Theatre
Dinner Theatre, "Come Blow Your Horn," 6:30 pm, Union, Ballroom
Chemistry Seminar, 1 pm, Felmley 436

Saturday

Dinner Theatre, "Come Blow Your Horn," 6:30 pm, Union, Ballroom
Shriners All-Star Football Game, 7 pm, Hancock Stadium
Theatre, "Cabaret," 8 pm, Westhoff Theatre

Classified ads . . .

As a service to faculty and staff, Illinois State Report will accept up to five three-line advertisements per issue. Copy deadline is noon Tuesday. Cost is $2 per insertion with checks to accompany ads, payable to ISU Printing Services. Funds will defray cost of producing Report. Ads will be accepted on first-come basis. Send to News Service, Hovey Hall 401.

FOR SALE: Books and records. Art, biography, dictionaries, government, history, education, psychology, etc. Priced very reasonable. Room 420 Schroeder between 8-9:30 am and Noon-3 pm.

FOR SALE: Grand Piano, five foot, with good tone and good action. $800. Phone 452-2096 or 1-747-2614.

FOR RENT: Three bedroom house. Two blocks from campus. Desire married couple to serve as houseparents. Phone 452-0291 or 452-4564.

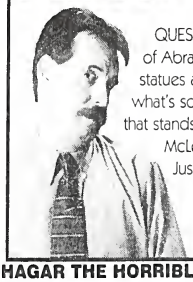
APARTMENT NEEDED: For first semester. Phone 6-5461, Ext. 34 or 452-0985.

The Pantagraph

60 pages, 5 sections | SATURDAY, April 21, 2001 | Bloomington-Normal, Illinois

BLOOMINGTON PANTAGRAPH

FLiCK FaCTS



QUESTION: Of the thousands of Abraham Lincoln busts and statues around the world, what's so unique about the one that stands in the foyer of the McLean County Law & Justice Center?

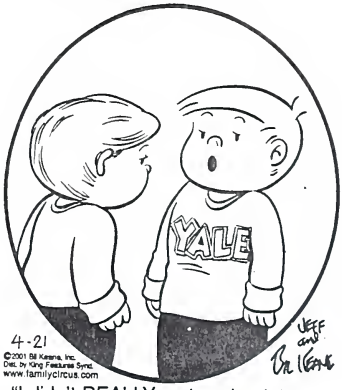
Answer below

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

MARMADUKE

"You taught him well this time. Boy, does he fetch."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I didn't REALLY go to school there."

ANSWER: It is believed to be the only one in the world specifically contoured to the exact height (6-foot-4) and precise proportions of Abe's body. Now 23 years old, the Bloomington statue was the idea of Bloomington history aficionado V.L. "Budd" Fairfield and was crafted by noted local sculptor Keith Knobiock.

KNOBLOCK, KEITH

DRAWER 21a

SCULPTORS - K